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Letter dated 14 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom in April 2007 (see annex). This has been prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other Council members.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (April 2007)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom in April 2007, the Security Council held 19 meetings, including one open debate, two private debates, one briefing and four meetings with troop-contributing countries. In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 14 occasions. The Council adopted five resolutions and five presidential statements. The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Margaret Beckett, MP, presided over an open debate on 17 April. The United Kingdom Minister of State, Kim Howells, MP, presided over the debate on the Middle East on 25 April.

Africa

The situation in Africa

On 4 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, briefed the Council on his visit to the Central African Republic, Chad and the Sudan from 20 March to 1 April. The Council members expressed concern at the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation and saw a pressing need for political solutions within and between those countries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 3 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/9) deploring the violence which had occurred from 22 to 25 March in Kinshasa and expressing grave concern at the loss of life and at the destruction and pillaging which took place. The Council further urged all parties to respect the sanctity of human life and the principles of human rights and to pursue negotiated solutions to their differences, with respect for the constitutional framework and the law. The Council reiterated the importance of the international community's continuing support for the peace consolidation process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need to ensure concerted action by international partners to that end. It further recognized that such support should be based on a shared commitment by the Congolese authorities and all Congolese political actors to national reconciliation and to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

On 4 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, briefed the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the Secretary-General's latest report on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/156), including the Secretary-General's recommendations for the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). During the discussion the Council noted the recent violence in Kinshasa and its implications for stability and national reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recalled the need for all parties to resolve their differences by dialogue instead of force and to remain committed to the political process. Consultations on 4 April were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the countries contributing troops to MONUC.

On 13 April, the Council adopted resolution 1751 (2007), extending the existing mandate and personnel strength of MONUC, as set out in previous resolutions, until 15 May 2007.

Liberia

On 18 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Jamal Nasser al-Bader, Deputy Permanent Representative of Qatar, representing the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, briefed the Council on the status of the sanctions regime, on discussions in the Committee and on the latest findings of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. The Panel in its interim report concluded that Liberia had met the requirements for participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Committee therefore expressed support for the early lifting by the Council of measures on diamonds imposed by resolution 1521 (2003) and renewed by resolutions 1689 (2006) and 1731 (2006).

On 27 April, the Council adopted resolution 1753 (2007) on the situation in Liberia and West Africa, by which it terminated the measures on diamonds imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), encouraged the Kimberley Process to report in 90 days to the Council, through the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003), on Liberia's application to the Kimberley Process, and decided to review the termination of the measures on diamonds after consideration of the reports of the Panel of Experts and the Kimberley Process.

Sudan

On 5 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, provided his 90-day report to the Council as required under that resolution. The Ambassador reported on discussion within the Committee and on the contents of, and follow-up to, two ad hoc case reports of the Panel of Experts. He also mentioned the main findings and recommendations in the interim report of the Panel of Experts. The discussion reflected concern within the Council over the deterioration of the situation and the alleged violations of the provisions of resolution 1591 (2005). The Council members urged the parties to comply with Council resolutions and with the Darfur Peace Agreement. Some delegations called for consideration of whether further sanctions should be imposed.

On 12 April, the Council received, in consultations of the whole, a briefing from the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the meeting held on 9 April in Addis Ababa between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan. He said that the Sudan had agreed to the United Nations heavy support package for the

African Union Mission in the Sudan, except for six attack helicopters. There was a broad welcome from the Council members for this development. The Council agreed that the President should write to the Secretary-General, to express support for United Nations funding of the heavy support package, once the Council received confirmation that the Government of the Sudan had agreed to the entire package, including the helicopters. On 16 April, the President wrote to the Secretary-General in those terms, having received a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan confirming his Government's agreement to the entire heavy support package.

Also on 16 April, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary hosted an informal private discussion on the Sudan, bringing together Council members, the Secretary-General and senior United Nations representation; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare, and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Said Djinnit; and the United Nations and African Union special representatives, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim.

On 23 April, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Taye-Brook Zerihoun, briefed the Council, in consultations of the whole, on the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1590 (2005) (S/2007/213), updating the Council on progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, respect for the ceasefire and implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). He noted that the parties to the Agreement continued to make some, albeit limited, progress on the implementation of the Agreement. Good progress had been made on power-sharing arrangements and the ceasefire had been largely respected. A sense of mistrust, however, remained. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement had reached a delicate stage. It needed a strong commitment from the parties and support from the international community. Major issues ahead included the completion of the redeployment of forces and preparations for midterm elections, to be held in 2009. In the discussion, the Council members also called for more rapid implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, agreed that securing lasting peace in the Sudan could not be addressed piecemeal, but rather was indivisible, and stressed the importance of the 2009 elections. Consultations were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the countries contributing troops to UNMIS. On 30 April, the Council adopted resolution 1755 (2007), extending the UNMIS mandate until 31 October 2007.

Somalia

On 12 April, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed the Security Council on the violence in Somalia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation there. At least 400 people had been killed in the recent fighting in Mogadishu and another 600 injured. A total of 128,000 civilians had been displaced from the city since February. A new date had yet to be scheduled for the National Reconciliation Congress. In the discussion, the Council members called for all parties to reject violence and commit themselves to dialogue, in order that the National Reconciliation Congress might convene. On 24 April, an informal private discussion was held on Somalia, at which the African Union observer and representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs briefed Council members.

On 30 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/13) on Somalia, expressing concern at the renewed fighting there, deploring the loss of civilian life and the humanitarian impact of the fighting, and calling upon all parties to end the hostilities and agree to a comprehensive ceasefire. The Council emphasized the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian relief assistance. It reiterated its support for the political process as outlined in the Transitional Federal Charter, and called for the National Reconciliation Congress to be convened as soon as possible. The Council reiterated that full and effective deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was vital, requested the Secretary-General to consult the African Union and troop contributors on how urgently to strengthen further the capabilities of AMISOM on the ground, and requested the Secretary-General immediately to begin appropriate contingency planning for a possible United Nations mission, to be deployed if the Security Council decided to authorize such a mission.

Western Sahara

On 20 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Julian Harston, and the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole on the situation in Western Sahara, including the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2007/202) and the activities of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Personal Envoy highlighted the Secretary-General's recommendation in his report that the Security Council should call on the parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. In the discussion, the Council members took note of plans proposed by both parties and expressed support for a call on the parties to negotiate. The Council members also welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of MINURSO be extended for a period of six months, until 31 October 2007. Consultations of the whole were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the troop-contributing countries to MINURSO.

On 30 April, the Council adopted resolution 1754 (2007), extending the mandate of MINURSO for a period of six months, until 31 October 2007, and calling on the parties to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

Asia

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 5 April, in consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on his visit to the Middle East from 22 to 31 March, including his attendance at the Arab Summit in Riyadh and his meeting there with the President of the Sudan. He also introduced his latest report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), including the proposal to dispatch an independent assessment mission to assess the monitoring of the Lebanese border. From the discussion that followed, it was clear that the Council members remained committed to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). While important progress had been

made, there was a need for further efforts in key areas. The Council remained ready to support the parties in this regard.

On 25 April, the Security Council held a debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Kim Howells, MP, presided over the debate, in which representatives of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic also participated. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Security Council on the mostly positive evolution in the situation, but cautioned against the threat to the process from the deteriorating security situation. He welcomed recent positive developments, including the meetings between the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert, and the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and the reaffirmation of the Arab peace initiative by the League of Arab States and the formation of a ministerial committee by the League of Arab States to further this initiative. He called for the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston and for both sides to take steps to calm the situation. The Council members spoke of the current momentum in the process and welcomed the Arab peace initiative. They reiterated the importance of national dialogue in Lebanon.

Lebanon

On 17 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/12), responding to the Secretary-General's report of 14 March 2007 (S/2007/147) on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and inter alia authorizing the despatch, in close liaison with the Government of Lebanon, of an independent mission to assess the monitoring of the border.

Timor-Leste

On 4 April, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council agreed on a statement to the press on the presidential elections to be held on 9 April in Timor-Leste, expressing full support for elections, a significant milestone in the country's democratic process. In that statement, the Council members called upon all parties to adhere to the principles of non-violence and to democratic and legal processes to ensure that the upcoming presidential elections would have a unifying impact and contribute to bringing the people of Timor-Leste together. The members expressed appreciation for the role played by the National Commission on Elections, the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste in the preparations for the elections. The members of the Security Council underlined the need for the international community to continue to provide support to Timor-Leste and welcomed the presence of domestic as well as international electoral observers in Timor-Leste.

Europe

Georgia

On 10 April, in a private debate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Jean Arnault, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2007/182). He noted that while the Joint Fact-Finding Group's investigation into the military attacks of 11 March in the

upper Kodori Valley had answered a number of questions, more information was required. It was necessary to look at ways to improve international observation. The Special Representative urged both sides to work to address the situation. He noted areas of genuine progress and that proposals on confidence-building measures had been an outcome of the February meeting at Geneva: if implemented, these would provide vital momentum to the push for dialogue. He stressed the vital ongoing role of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General. The Prime Minister of Georgia, Zurab Noghaideli, also made a statement at the meeting. The meeting was preceded by a private meeting held with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

In subsequent discussion in consultations of the whole the Council members expressed concern at the high level of tension between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, and concluded that there was an overriding need for the parties to resume dialogue, with commitment and vigour, and to build confidence, as envisaged in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1716 (2006). The Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in the zone of conflict and at the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees. Strong support was expressed for the work of UNOMIG and the Group of Friends.

On 13 April, the Council adopted resolution 1752 (2007), extending the mandate of UNOMIG until 15 October 2007, as recommended in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General. Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, the Council called on both sides to resume dialogue, making full use of all existing mechanisms, to comply fully with previous agreements regarding a ceasefire and non-use of violence and to finalize without delay agreements on the non-use of violence and on return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The Council stressed the important stabilizing role of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force in the conflict zone. The Council further endorsed proposals for confidence-building measures and urged both parties with the assistance of UNOMIG and international partners to engage immediately in implementing those measures without conditions. The Council welcomed progress achieved by both sides towards the implementation of resolution 1716 (2006). The Council condemned the attack on 11 and 12 March 2007 on villages in the upper Kodori Valley, urged the sides to address seriously each other's legitimate security concerns, to refrain from actions which might impede the peace process and to extend the necessary cooperation to UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force.

Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

On 3 April, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo, President Martti Ahtisaari, briefed the Security Council during a private debate on his proposals for Kosovo's final status. The Prime Minister of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, made a statement. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Joachim Ruecker, also spoke, in part on behalf of the President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu. In consultations of the whole, President Ahtisaari took questions from members of the Council.

On 23 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole on the

implementation of resolution 1244 (1999), prior to the Council's mission, from 24 to 28 April, on the Kosovo issue, to Brussels, Belgrade, Kosovo and Vienna.

Thematic issues

Letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

On 17 April, the Council held an open debate, based on a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom (S/2007/186), transmitting a concept paper which set out some of the potential impacts of climate change on international peace and security.

The Secretary-General made a statement in which he reiterated the threats emanating from environmental degradation and resource scarcity, including their potential to destabilize already conflict-prone regions. He stressed that the cost of prevention would be far lower — in financial terms and in terms of human life — than the cost of conflict and its consequences. In urging a clearer focus on the benefits of early action, the Secretary-General suggested that civil society and private sector resources should be brought in, and emphasized that the Council had a role to play in working with other intergovernmental bodies to address those possible root causes of conflict. He said that the Secretariat stood ready to assist.

All of the Council members and representatives of more than 40 other Member States made statements. Many acknowledged the serious problems presented by climate change, including its security implications. Many States agreed that climate change was not just a future threat to their security, but a current one. Some feared for their future existence. Others expressed concern about the problems caused by climate change, but believed that the Security Council was an inappropriate venue for the discussion. Some suggested alternative forums where the subject should also be pursued, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme. Some called for discussion of climate change, including its security dimensions, at special sessions or high-level segments of those bodies in the future. The United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, presiding over the meeting, noted in conclusion that the interventions had brought out the challenging complexity of the issue and the need to tackle it in different ways and in different forums.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 12 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/10), condemning in the strongest terms two suicide attacks that occurred in Algiers, on 11 April. The Council expressed its sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people and the Government of Algeria. It underlined the need for those involved in acts of terrorism to be brought to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their international obligations, to cooperate actively with the Algerian authorities in this regard.

On 13 April, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/11) condemning in the strongest terms a terrorist attack on the Council of Representatives of Iraq in Baghdad, on 12 April. The Council expressed its sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and to the people

and the Government of Iraq. It underlined the need for those involved in acts of terrorism to be brought to justice and urged all States, in accordance with their international obligations, to cooperate actively with the Iraqi authorities in this regard. Further, the Council supported efforts to promote national dialogue, reconciliation and broad political participation in ensuring unity, peace, security and stability in Iraq, reaffirmed its support for the Iraqi people and Government and demanded that those who use violence in an attempt to subvert the political process should cease hostilities, lay down their arms and participate in that process.

Other issues

Resolution 1718 (2006) (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 16 April, in consultations of the whole, Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy and Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, briefed the Council on discussions in the Committee, and presented the Committee's second 90-day report covering the period from 12 January to 11 April 2007, in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006). Ambassador Spatafora gave an overview of reports received from 68 countries and one organization (European Union), concerning the implementation of the resolution. He noted that the Committee continued its consideration of draft guidelines for the conduct of its work.